

Instructions for fixing ceramic wall plaques

Time required approx. 1 hour per plaque, given a flat wall and warm weather.

Using Cemquick waterproof rapid setting cement, ceramic plaques can be permanently fixed to brick, block work, stone and rendered walls. For painted rendered or brick walls an area of paint will need to be removed (with an angle grinder or blowtorch and scraper) to form a good key. Uneven stonewalls will need any high points removed and an additional mix of cement applied to the area of the plaque to form a level.

You will need

1 Bucket (3 kg) of Cemquick waterproof rapid setting cement (available from most builders' merchants, other brands of cement are available but we have had many years using this product successfully.)

Electric drill, masonry drill bit, wall plugs, no 8 screws, screwdriver, Spirit level, chalk or pencil for marking the wall, hammer, trowel, mixing stick, scales, measuring jug, buckets, sponges and clean water.

Fixing

On the back of the plaque there are two level positioning holes. Measure the distance apart and drill two corresponding spaced holes in the wall on a horizontal line drawn on the wall using a spirit level. Drill marked holes, fit wall plugs and screws leaving the screw heads about 5mm proud. Carefully rest the plaque on the screw heads (do not let go! these are just for positioning.) Then check lettering is horizontal by placing a spirit level along the top of one of the lines of text.

Minor adjustments can be made, by removing plaque and gently nudging the screw heads with a hammer until the plaque sits on the screw heads and the lettering is level. Mark around the diameter to indicate the area of cement needed. Dampen both surfaces (not too much) mix 250ml of water with 1kg of cement (as manufacturers instructions.) Mix to a paste and apply evenly to wall and back of plaque. Carefully hang plaque back on positioning screws with a slight twisting action not letting go, check the level again and hold in place for 5 to 10 mins until there is no movement. This will take longer if the weather is cold, quicker if it is hot. Remove any excess cement and spills with a sponge and clean water. Mix a small amount of cement to fill the gap around the edge to make a seal. Sponge the edge to make a smooth surface and clean the plaque and wall with lots of clean water. If wall is rough textured brick it is worth covering the area around the circle with gaffer tape prior to applying cement, as the cement is very difficult to wash out from the texture. The cement will set hard after 20 mins and be full strength after 24 hours.

Before unveiling, polish with a dry duster, J cloth or tissue to remove any cement dust residue left from the final washing.